



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

October 6, 1998

**H.R. 4655**  
**Iraq Liberation Act of 1998**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations  
on October 2, 1998*

H.R. 4655 would authorize assistance to certain organizations that are opposed to the regime of Saddam Hussein and that support a transition to democracy in Iraq. The bill would authorize discretionary spending of up to \$99 million, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Because H.R. 4655 could change the purpose of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense (DoD), the bill could affect direct spending and would be subject to pay-as-you-go procedures. CBO expects that the change in direct spending under the bill would be negligible.

H.R. 4655 would require the President to designate one or more Iraqi opposition groups as eligible to receive military assistance from the United States and would authorize the President to provide aid from DoD's stocks and services. Up to \$97 million in assistance could be provided from activities funded in appropriation acts for DoD. Although the bill would authorize the appropriation of funds to reimburse DoD, reimbursement is not required and has not been the practice in response to other drawdown authority.

The bill contains two other provisions with a budgetary impact. First, it would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million in 1999 for a grant to support radio and television broadcasting by Iraqi opposition groups. Second, the bill would authorize the President to provide humanitarian assistance to individuals living in areas of Iraq that are controlled by opposition groups. CBO expects that this provision would have little or no impact, because the President has that authority under current law. Although the United States has provided humanitarian assistance in the past, no such assistance was provided in 1998.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that Act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the national security. That exclusion might apply to the provisions of this bill. In any case, the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates.

The estimate was prepared by Joseph C. Whitehill. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.